

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGRE-00 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05

L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 EPG-02 AID-05

SS-15 STR-04 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02

OMB-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-07 NEA-10 OIC-02 /140 W

-----080073 242121Z /63

R 242040Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0508

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BRUSSELS 06780

ALSO FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EEC, PFOR, BE, US

SUBJECT: BELGIAN PRESIDENCY OF THE EC-9, JULY-DECEMBER  
1977

SUMMARY: BELGIUM, WHICH HAS JUST FORMED A NEW GOVERNMENT,  
WILL ASSUME THE PRESIDENCY OF THE EC-9 FOR SIX MONTHS  
BEGINNING ON JULY 1. FOLLOWING COVERS ALL PRELIMINARY  
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DISCUSSIONS ON HOW U.S.-EC POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS WILL  
BE CONDUCTED AND ISSUES BELGIANS EXPECT TO ARISE. END  
SUMMARY.

1. WE HAVE TALKED TO DIRECTOR GENERAL VANDEN BLOOCK AND  
THE OFFICER-IN-CHARGE OF EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS,  
DE SCHOUTHEETE, ABOUT PROCEDURES FOR THE U.S. DIALOGUE

WITH THE BELGIAN PRESIDENCY.

2. DE SCHOUTHEETE WILL BE THE PRIMARY POINT OF CONTACT WITH THE EMBASSY. HE OR ONE OF HIS STAFF OF FIVE OFFICERS WILL PROVIDE US WITH FULL BRIEFINGS AFTER MINISTERIAL AND POLITICAL DIRECTORS' MEETINGS AND WILL RECEIVE U.S. VIEWS AND SUGGESTIONS. VANDEN BLOOCK WILL CONTACT US WHEN THE PRESIDENCY WISHES TO RAISE IMPORTANT POLICY ISSUES WITH THE U.S.

3. DE SCHOUTHEETE SAID THAT THE BELGIAN PRESIDENCY WAS UNLIKELY TO PROVIDE US ROUTINELY WITH EC DOCUMENTS. ALSO THEY ARE RELUCTANT TO BRIEF US AFTER MEETINGS OF EXPERTS. DE SCHOUTHEETE SAID THAT EXPERTS TENDED TO DEVELOP POSITIONS WHICH REQUIRE CORRECTION AT THE POLITICAL DIRECTOR LEVEL BEFORE THEY CAN BE ACCEPTED AS POLICY. THE BELGIAN PRESIDENCY INTENDS TO CUT THE EXPERTS BACK DOWN TO SIZE. DE SCHOUTHEETE SAID HE WOULD COMPLY WITH OUR REQUEST FOR TIMELY NOTICE OF MEETINGS, AGENDAS AND FOR A RAPID BRIEFING AFTER MEETINGS. HE STRESSED THAT BELGIUM IS DETERMINED TO ADHERE STUDIOUSLY TO THE FICTION THAT THE EC PRESIDENT DOES NO BRIEFING OF OUTSIDERS ON ITS OWN INITIATIVE. THUS BELGIUM DOES NOT WISH TO BE EMBARRASSED BY ANY U.S. INDISCRETIONS ON THE BRIEFINGS UNDER THE GYMnich FORMULA. HE SAID THAT THE BELGIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON WOULD BE KEPT INFORMED OF OUR CONFIDENTIAL

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POLITICAL CONSULTATION, BUT THAT THE PRIMARY PLACE FOR U.S.-EC POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS WOULD BE WITH US IN BRUSSELS.

4. THE BRITISH FOREIGN OFFICE WILL SECUND AN OFFICER (MISS GRIFFITH-JONES) FOR THREE MONTHS TO THE BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY TO HELP WITH HER EXPERIENCE AND TO PROVIDE CONTINUITY. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE DANISH FOREIGN MINISTRY WILL SECUND AN OFFICER TO THE BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY FOR THE LAST THREE MONTHS OF THE BELGIAN PRESIDENCY TO EASE THE TRANSITION OF THE PRESIDENCY TO DENMARK IN JANUARY 1978. THIS ARRANGEMENT IS BEING TRIED AS A MEANS OF ENDOWING THE EC PRESIDENCY WITH SOME CONTINUITY AND CONSISTENCY WITHOUT CREATING A STANDING SECRETARIAT.

5. COORDINATION AT THE UN: DE SCHOUTHEETE TOLD US THAT TIME WAS OFTEN AN ISSUE IN NEW YORK AND THAT EC COORDINATION AND U.S.-EC COORDINATION ON ISSUES WOULD IN SOME CASES HAVE TO BE WORKED OUT ON THE SPOT. THE MECHANICS HAVE NOT YET BEEN WORKED OUT, HOWEVER. THE SUBJECT WILL BE DISCUSSED WITH THE BELGIAN AMBASSADOR

TO THE U.N., ANDRE ERNEMANN, WHEN HE RETURNS TO BELGIUM  
ON LEAVE. IN ADDITION, THE FORMER BELGIAN AMBASSADOR  
TO SWEDEN, MISS EDMONDE DEVER WILL BE ASSIGNED TO THE  
BELGIAN MISSION TO THE U.N. IN ORDER TO ASSIST.

6. PRESIDENCY PROBLEMS: VANDEN BLOOCK AND DE SCHOU-  
THEETE SAID IN SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS THAT THEY FORESAW  
FIVE PRIMARY PROBLEMS, WHICH WOULD REQUIRE ATTENTION  
DURING THE BELGIAN PRESIDENCY:

(A) SIMONET'S UNGA ADDRESS, WHICH WILL BE DIFFICULT TO  
COORDINATE AMONG THE NINE;

(B) THE CSCE CONFERENCE IN BELGRADE, WHERE PROCEDURAL  
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DIFFICULTIES HAVE ALREADY BEEN ENCOUNTERED OVER THE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BRUSSELS 06780

ALSO FOR USEEC

NAMEPLATE OF THE U.K. DELEGATION WHICH SHOULD ALSO REFER TO THE EC PRESIDENCY. THE BELGIANS BELIEVE IT IMPORTANT THAT THE BELGRADE CONFERENCE PROVIDE THE MEANS FOR A THOROUGH REVIEW OF ALL THREE BASKETS, AND THAT THE EC WOULD INSIST ON THIS POINT. THEY FORESEE POTENTIAL WEAKNESS IN THE COMMUNITY POSITION FROM THE FRENCH AND DANES. THE BELGIANS BELIEVE THE FRENCH WILL GO ALONG WITH THE REST OF THE COMMUNITY ONLY SO FAR AS THEY  
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BELIEVE IT IN THEIR NATIONAL INTEREST TO DO SO AND THAT THE DANES WILL BE RELUCTANT TO TAKE POSITIONS WHICH THE SOVIETS MIGHT CONSIDER UNFRIENDLY;

(C) THEY EXPECT THERE WILL BE MAJOR PROBLEMS IN AFRICA REQUIRING CLOSE U.S.-PRESIDENCY CONSULTATIONS;

(D) THE BELGIANS BELIEVE THAT THE EC STATEMENT ON THE MIDDLE EAST, WHICH HAS ALREADY BEEN AGREED TO, WILL BE RELEASED AFTER THE MINISTERIAL MEETING ON JUNE 29;

(E) NEGOTIATIONS FOR GREECE'S ACCESSION TO THE EC WILL BE PURSUED ACTIVELY BUT NOT COMPLETED DURING THE BELGIAN PRESIDENCY. A MAJOR ISSUE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS WILL RELATE TO AGRICULTURE. THE BELGIANS SAY THAT THE FRENCH AND ITALIANS ARE PARTICULARLY CONCERNED ABOUT AGRICULTURAL CONCESSIONS TO GREECE BECAUSE OF THE PRECEDENT THAT WOULD BE SET FOR EVENTUAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH SPAIN, WHOSE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS ARE MORE COMPETITIVE WITH THOSE OF FRANCE AND ITALY. IN THE INTERIM, THE PROCESS OF POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS WITH GREECE IS LIKELY TO BE INTENSIFIED. HOWEVER, THE BELGIANS ARE CONCERNED THAT INCREASING GREEK-COMMUNITY CONSULTATIONS NOT LEAVE THE TURKS FEELING ISOLATED. THEY, THEREFORE, PROPOSE TO HAVE MORE POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS WITH THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT. CHAMBERS

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